

*13 March 2006*  
*Monday*

## **READINGS**

Psalm 56; Genesis 41:46-57; I Corinthians 4:8-21; Mark 3: 7-19

## **DEVOTION**

Despair in combat can kill as surely as an IED. In a blink of any eye, despair can “kill” an organization’s focus. As a logistician, focus is a combat multiplier and our warriors deserve nothing less than our complete focus.

I must admit, I fell into Satan’s trap of despair when I was told that I would have to return to Iraq for a second tour. How did this fit into MY plans? I was angry at God and I was scared because of doubt. If I returned to Iraq it only increased my chances that I could be wounded or killed.

Psalm 56 is one of my favorite chapters in the bible because David is able to describe human emotions in probably a more succinct manner than any author in the history of literature. As soldiers, it is OK to be scared, but it is not OK to let despair or doubt creep into your conscience like a thief and steal your focus; your hope. Psalm 56: 3-4 says it best, “When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?” What these verses tell me is that as sure as my IBA, E-SAPI, and Ballistic Helmet; if I wear the armor of God, “What can mortal man do to me?” This should shine the light of Hope on the darkness of despair and doubt; sharpening your focus on the prize.

During your study, this Psalm begs to question does being afraid lead you to trust God more, or less? Conversely, does not trusting God lead you to be more afraid? Less? Why? How can you choose faith when you are afraid. Which gets more notice from God: Your tears? Sins? Praises? Petitions? Why? If not God, in front of whom can you cry openly? If God is with us, why do we fear human threats so much? As soldiers why does this lead to loss of focus? Can head knowledge of God alleviate fears, which are emotional? How do you overcome fear? Some things to ponder when you go to U3 with the armor of God. May God Bless you and protect you “Even though you walk through the valley of the shadow of death.”

**LTC Matt “Mad Dog” Ferguson, 3rd COSCOM**